

Town of Bayville
New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail
Intersection of U.S. Highway 9 and State Route 617
Bayville
Ocean County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-1019

HABS
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15-BAYV
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

TOWN OF BAYVILLE

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- Location:** New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, Intersection of U.S. Highway 9 and State Route 617, Bayville, Ocean County, New Jersey.
- Significance:** Bayville is significant as an early nineteenth-century bay town, often referred to as the "Barnegat Bay resorts." The villages fronting the bay were established communities relying on the products of forest trade and sea long before the railroad brought resort trade.
- History:** In 1822, Bayville, located south of Ocean Gate on Route 9, was known as Potter's Creek after a resident who owned land along the stream flowing from the forests of Pinewald into Barnegat Bay. When a non-denominational church was constructed around 1829, the town's name was changed to Dover Chapel.¹ The Trinity Methodist Parsonage stands on the site of the earlier church, where the residents of Berkeley Township first met to discuss community matters.² Another name, Chaseford, was coined around 1866 by the Bayville post office to honor the Honorable Salmon Portland Chase, the Secretary of the Treasury from 1861-64.³ The present name of Bayville was adopted in 1868, seven years before the town broke from Dover Township.

Though Woolman and Rose called Bayville "the principle village" of Berkeley Township, Kobbe's guidebook entry on Toms River ends with a less flattering impression of the area. "The first place south of Toms River is the straggling settlement of Bayville. Here is the melancholy-looking shell of an old free church."⁴ More than ten years before Kobbe's comments, in 1873, construction began on a new church. The Bayville Methodist Church on Route 9 replaced the "melancholy shell" as the town's principal place of worship; the chapel continued to be used as a community center and school. As indicated by the early church building, Bayville was the main gathering place in the area and included the post office and civic center.⁵

In 1962 Berkeley Township reported a population increase of 250 percent up from the preceding decade. Thirteen civic organizations were created to deal with the area's

¹ Vivian Zinkin, "Place Names of Ocean County," (Unpublished, Ph.D. diss., Columbia University, 1968), 242, 349.

² Lucille Glosque, Berkeley Township: The First 100 Years (Berkeley Township Centennial Commission, 1975), 13.

³ Zinkin, 258.

⁴ Gustav Kobbe, The New Jersey Coast and Pines (Short Hills: By the author, 1889; reprint, Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1977). Kobbe, 69.

⁵ "Ocean County Historic Sites Survey, Berkeley" (Toms River: Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission, 1981), 6.

overcrowded schools, lack of local jobs and high taxes.⁶ Today, few reminders of the past can be gleaned. Kay Worth, president of the Berkeley Township Historical Society, called the town hall, "the final example of antiquity in the township."⁷ The 101-year-old building, located at 759 Route 9, now serves as a local museum.

As resident support seems to indicate, the Bayville dinosaur is a more appropriate monument for a community developed around the automobile. "Drive until you see the Bayville dino," is a common instruction to those unfamiliar with the territory.⁸ The green metal dinosaur hails motorists from a small platform in front of Kim Carpeting and Linoleum. More than 50 years old, the dinosaur attracted community support and sympathy when it lost its head in a roadside accident. The 150-pound head has since been re-attached.⁹

Prepared by: Sarah Allaback
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- Sources: Glosque, Lucille. Berkeley Township: The First 100 Years. Berkeley Township Centennial Commission, 1975.
- Gude, Philip. "Bayville's Famed Dinosaur has 'Roamed' for Decades." The Ocean County Reporter, 12 March 1975.
- Kiely, Eugene. "A place Society can call home." Ocean County Observer, 4 March 1984.
- Kobbe, Gustav. The New Jersey Coast and Pines. Short Hills: By the author, 1889; reprint, Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1977.
- "Ocean County Historic Sites Survey, Berkley." Toms River: Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission, 1981.
- "Route 9 Dinosaur Repaired After Losing Head in Crash." Asbury Park Press, 12 August 1988, n.p.
- "Township Mobilizes To Meet Recent Growing Pains, Stimulate Economy." Ocean County Sun Supplement, 9 August 1962, n.p.

⁶ "Township Mobilizes To Meet Recent Growing Pains, Stimulate Economy," The Ocean County Sun Supplement (August 9, 1962), 18.

⁷ Eugene Kiely, "A place Society Can Call Home," Ocean County Observer (March 4, 1984), 3.

⁸ Philip Gude, "Bayville's Famed Dinosaur has 'Roamed' for Decades," The Ocean County Reporter (March 12, 1975), 24.

⁹ "Route 9 Dinosaur Repaired After Losing Head in Crash," Asbury Park Press (August 12, 1988), B6.

Zinkin, Vivian. "Place Names of Ocean County," Ph.D. diss., Columbia University, 1968.

Project Information:

This project was sponsored by the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail (NJCHT) of the National Park Service, Janet Wolf, director. The documentation was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Robert Kapsch, chief, under the direction of HABS historian Sara Amy Leach, project supervisor. Three historians completed the research during summer 1991: Field supervisor Sarah Allaback (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Alfred Holden (University of Vermont), and Camille Gatza (North Carolina). David Ames (University of Delaware) made the large-format photographs. Historian, Elizabeth Harris May (George Washington University), edited the HABS reports.